

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Summary of Office action

In the Office action dated September 25, 2007, the following objections and rejections were made:

- FIGS. 1, 13 and 20 were objected to on formal grounds;
- the specification was objected to on formal grounds;
- claim 66 was objected to on formal grounds;
- claims 66 – 68 and 70 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,015,630 to Contreras (the Contreras patent);
- claim 69 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of the combination of the Contreras patent in view of U.S. Patent 2,725,072 to Hershman (the Hershman patent).

Objection to the Figures

FIGS. 19 and 20 were objected to on the basis that FIG. 19 and FIG. 20 both designate reference character "188", but are not pointing at the same part. Applicants respectfully submit that the objection has been overcome by the amendment to FIG. 19 to remove reference character "188".

FIGS. 1, 2 and 13 were objected to on the basis that referenced characters were not mentioned in the description. Applicants respectfully submit that the above amendments to paragraphs [0050] and [0071] overcome the objection.

Objections to the Specification

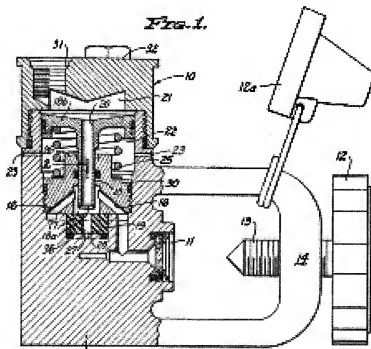
Various objections to the specification were raised in the Office action dated September 25, 2007. Applicants have amended the specification as indicated in the Office action. Applicants respectfully submit that all amendments are supported by the specification.

Objection to claim 66

Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to claim 66 overcome the objection to claim 66 detailed in the Office action dated September 25, 2007.

Rejection of claim 66

Claim 66 was rejected as being anticipated by the Contreras patent. The Contreras patent is to a regulator first stage for underwater diving. An example of the disclosed regulator is shown in FIG. 1 of the Contreras patent.



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The Office action dated September 25, 2007 states the following with respect to the Contreras patent:

Contreras discloses a gas valve comprising an inlet opening (11), a passageway (16) extending downstream of the inlet opening, an attachment portion near the inlet opening, the attachment portion configured for connecting the valve to a pressurized gas source, and a moveable cover member (12a) adapted to cover the inlet opening, the moveable cover member having a range of motion between a first position wherein the moveable cover member covers the inlet opening and a second position outside of the passageway wherein the moveable cover member is displaced from the inlet opening, the moveable cover member being biased towards the first position (col. 2, lines 4 – 21).

Applicants confess that they were unable to locate any disclosure within the Contreras patent concerning “the moveable cover member being biased towards the first position” (i.e. “wherein the moveable cover member covers the inlet opening”). On the contrary, the portion of the Contreras patent cited in the Office action discloses “[a] protective cap 12a ... loosely mounted on the yoke 14” [Contreras patent, col. 2, lns. 12 – 13].

In the interests of advancing the prosecution of the above referenced case, Applicants have amended claim 66 to claim a regulator device including a gas valve. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 66 is patentable for reasons including that the prior art of record does not teach the following:

66. A regulator device configured to reduce the gas pressure of a source of pressurized breathable gas in a self contained underwater breathing apparatus, comprising:

a regulator housing;

a gas inlet opening located within a bore in the regulator housing;

a gas valve, comprising:

a housing possessing an inlet opening and an exit opening;

a passageway extending downstream of the inlet opening;

a filter located within the passageway so that fluid must pass through the filter to pass through the exit opening; and

a retainer device for removably securing the filter within the exit opening of the passageway; and

a moveable cover member adapted to cover the inlet opening of the gas valve, the moveable cover member having a range of motion between a first position wherein the moveable cover member covers the inlet opening and a second position outside of the passageway wherein the moveable cover member is displaced from the inlet opening, the moveable cover member being biased towards the first position;

wherein the housing of the gas valve includes a portion threaded into the bore of the regulator housing; and

wherein the gas outlet opening of the gas valve is in fluid communication with the gas inlet opening of the first stage regulator.

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Claims 67, 69 and 70

Claims 67, 69 and 70 depend from claim 66. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 67, 69 and 70 are patentable for reasons including that claims 67, 69 and 70 depend from an allowable base claim.

Conclusion

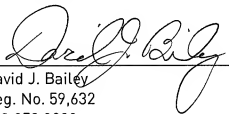
In view of the foregoing amendment and response, it is believed that the currently pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowability.

If Applicants' counsel can be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact them at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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DJB/r